

Using Successful Social Strategies

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Theme 1

- Issues experienced by people with ASD

What about the future?

Over 50% of individuals with Asperger's pursue higher education but...

- 12% hold fulltime jobs
- 83% have less than 2 social cont acts per month
- 3% live independently

(National Autistic Society, 2001)

Profile of 400 adults on Spectrum

- .04% live independently
- 10% have some type of occupation
- 14% socialize outside the home
- 95% report no friendships

(Seltzer & Krauss USA, 2003)

Think about it

- What social skills do you need to know for your job/personal relationships/place of worship?
- Are they the same social skills you needed for your last job/personal relationships/place of worship?
- Are they the same skills you needed for your first job/personal relationships/place of worship?
- How might they be same or different for a person with Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Social Communication

- Problems with social communication may include difficulties with:
 - Eye gaze
 - Using or responding to gestures
 - Using or reading facial expressions
 - Social appearance
 - Preoccupation with topic rather than process
 - Understanding partner's perceptions, feelings and needs

Social Communication

- Problem solving
- Lack of understanding self
- Inappropriate comments
- Understanding the hidden curriculum

- Interview individuals and parents and ask them to answer the question regarding social skills?
- Ask question specific to the areas identified as deficits.
- Interview supporters or employers and ask what social deficits they see in the community or work.

Theme 2

- Social skills – Social cognition

Social Behavior

- Social skills
 - Socially acceptable learned behaviors that enable a person to interact with others in ways that elicit positive responses and assist in avoiding negative responses.

(Gresham & Elliot)

Social Behavior

- Social competence views social interaction as a global concept rather than a series of isolated social skills.
 - Components of social competence
 - Perceiving, decoding, and interpreting social cues
 - Selecting an appropriate response
 - Appropriately enacting the social response
(Dodge)

The Difficulties

- Information presented in a temporal pattern
- Flexibility
- Identifying relevant information
- Generalizing information
- Gestalt learners
- Sequencing information

Successful Social Skills

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| • Personal responsibility | • Accepting direction |
| • Life skills | • Accepting correction |
| • Hygiene/appearance | • Not correcting |
| • Clothing | • Being busy |
| • Greetings | • Understanding the looks |
| • Diet/eating skills | • Respecting boundaries |
| • Responding to questions | • Modifies behavior based on others moods |
| • Responding to authority | |

Social Competence

- Nonverbal communication
- Social engagement
- Social cognition
- Social awareness
- Social anxiety

- Interview individuals and parents and ask them to answer the question regarding social skills listed?
- Ask individuals what they want from a relationship.
- Interview Dr. Loomis regarding difficulties related to social competence – structure as a discussion with me.

Theme 3

- Strategies

Social Behavior

- Assessment of social skills
 - 1.What skills?
 - 2.What approach?
 - 3.What strategies?

What skills?

- Use checklist to identify skills
 - Autism Social Skills Profile
 - Scott Bellini - IRCA
 - Social Skills Menu
 - Jed Baker
